

Gentlemen: I am very glad indeed to be with you today. General Eisenhower has already shown you by his presence here, and by his talk, the importance which he attaches to your assignment.

We have won the fight. However, America has not won the war unless in its successes it can join with other nations in finding a permanent road to peace and security.

That road to peace and security can only be laid on the foundations developed by military government in the aggressor nations. Yours is the task to lay that foundation. If it is soundly constructed the road will endure. If the base is of quick-sand our fighting has been in vain.

I think it therefore important to summarize why we are in Germany and what are our objectives. In general the answer to these questions are contained in the agreements reached at Potsdam.

Briefly our job is to de-Nazify and de-militarize Germany, removing

or destroying its existing heavy industries so that it will no longer have a *Perhaps military government could be run more effectively by continuing to use Nazis. Certainly the German economy would be disrupted with the present leadership method. Further off accomplishing an objective*
war potential. In ~~doing so~~ it is inevitable that we must reduce the standard

of living. We must not reduce that standard of living so as to destroy the German people. We must leave them some hope for the future if democratic principles are to have any chance to take hold and to survive.

*are seen objectives
no a strong economy
military government*

The de-Nazification of Germany requires the removal of all Nazis who were not merely nominal members of the party from places of prominence in German life. This means their removal from government, industry, and education. It also means separation of the prominent Nazis from their property and financial resources, particularly in those instances where they resulted from their party membership. This is fundamental to our task ahead. A love of democracy cannot be nurtured in the midst of Naziism.

De-militarization requires not only the ^{destruction} ~~splitting~~ of the German ^{armed} forces, with ^{their} ~~its~~ arms and weapons, and the demobilization of these ^{own numbers.} ~~forces~~, but also a breaking down of the military spirit and a tearing apart of all organizations which could foster such a spirit.

The destruction of Germany's heavy industries will probably result from a reparations program which has as its base the development of an economy within Germany which will provide a standard of living for Germany not greater than the average of the surrounding countries. All heavy industries production not required for such an economy is to be available for reparations, and this determination must be made within six months of the ending of the Potsdam Conference.

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Our short-range program in Germany will not be greatly effected by this longer range program, for the industries to be made available under reparations are not in operation now nor under the existing transportation and communications could they be made ready within the immediate future. Our short-range program is very simple. It is ^{just} to re-establish local German government, ^{this} ~~which~~ has been accomplished to date remarkably well under your leadership. It is to bring about law and order and reasonable stability. It is to provide food and shelter to the fullest extent reasonable from the indigenous sources in Germany to the people of Germany. It is to gradually restore political activity, ~~religious activity~~, a free press and a free radio.

The difficulties in undertaking this short range program and in fostering a democratic way of life in Germany will be increased as the reparations program gets under way, and the German people see so much of their capital assets being removed from Germany.

They must be made to realize that this loss of capital assets comes from their war responsibility, but that their future will not be restricted when they have demonstrated a national desire to adopt a different way of life.

Perhaps what I have said sounds academic to you who are faced with

practical day to day realities of running military government. However, only if you do your job can we have any hope to achieve the broad objectives.

The ability of America to govern Germany must not be subject to doubt. This means that we must have uniform policies throughout our sphere of responsibility. These responsibilities must be exercised with courage and decision, with firmness and with fairness.

That, to me, is why this Forum is so important. It gives you an opportunity to question us as to the "Why" of what we ask you to do. It gives you the opportunity to learn from each other. It gives us all an opportunity to become familiar with the problems which arise constantly and to interpret policy questions in common understanding.

We know that you, in turn, in returning to your home stations will pass the information which you have gained here to your associates and to your subordinates.

In this way the governing of Germany will become less of an individual responsibility and more and more the work of a team which knows where the goal is, and to work together to reach that goal.

Many of you have been away from home for a long time. Now that the

fighting is over, some of you are undoubtedly restless and eager to return. Perhaps that date will not be too distant for some of us and perhaps a long way off for others. Whatever the date I think you can take great pride that while you are here you are participating in one of the great experiments of all time. That experiment consists not only in measuring our ability to fix the responsibility on a people who waged aggressive war while endeavoring to re-educate these people to a philosophy more akin to our own, but also it gauges our ability to work with three other nations in a quadripartite government of a fifth nation. It is the testing ground of international cooperation. If we are to have understanding and accord throughout the world in the years ahead, this experiment in Germany cannot be permitted to fail. It can succeed only as you succeed.

Gentlemen, you have a great responsibility to mankind resting on your shoulders. Your work to date indicates that your shoulders are broad enough to carry the load.

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